

Message Text

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17

ACTION NEA-10

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R 191200Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8680

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 12803

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EG SY LY

SUBJECT: CAR AFTER EXPIRATION OF ASSEMBLY TERM

1. ASSEMBLY (PARLIAMENT) OF CONFEDERATION OF ARAB REPUBLICS (CAR) HAS NOW ENDED ITS FOUR-YEAR TERM. IN ACCORDANCE WITH CAR CONSTITUTION, ASSEMBLY MEMBERS HAVE RETURNED TO THEIR NATIONAL PARLIAMENTS IN CAIRO, DAMASCUS, AND TRIPOLI.

2. EVENTS OF ASSEMBLY'S FINAL SESSION POINT UP WHAT A CIPHER CAR HAS BECOME AS RESULT OF STRAINS BETWEEN ITS CONSTITUENT GOVERNMENTS. FOR EXAMPLE, ALTHOUGH LIBYAN AND EGYPTIAN ASSEMBLY MEMBERS VOTED AS BLOC TO PREVENT SYRIAN EFFORTS INTRODUCE ON AGENDA QUESTION OF SINAI II, EVEN GOE-LARG COOPERATION IN CAR CANNOT BE TAKEN FOR GRANTED. CAR SECRETARIAT WAS VERY DISTRUBED BY COMMUNIQUE ISSUED FOLLOWING JALLUD'S VISIT TO DAMASCUS. HARSH ATTACK ON SINAI II HAS, IN VIEW CAR'S SYG, CAST PALL OVER FUTURE OF CAR.

3. DEPTH OF SPLIT WITHIN ASSEMBLY DURING LAST SESSION WAS PERHAPS BEST SYMBOLIZED BY EGYPTIAN AND LIBYAN EMBERS' VOTE TO RELIEVE CAR'S SYRIAN PRIMIN OF HIS POSITION SINCE HE HAD "NEGLECTED HIS DUTIES, NEGLECTED
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ATTEND CABINET MEETINGS, AND HAD PARTICIPATED IN SARG'S

RECRIMINATIONS". IN FACT, SYG TELLS US THAT SUCH STRIPPING OF OFFICE CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED ONLY BY PRESIDENTIAL COUNCIL AND THAT COUNCIL, AT LEAST IN NEAR FUTURE, WILL TAKE NO ACTION.

4. ONLY ASSEMBLY SPEAKER RABTI (LIBYAN) SEEMS TO CONSIDER CAR AS VIABLE. HE RECENTLY TOLD AHAM THAT HE INTENDS VISIT KHARTOUM TO DISCUSS RESURRECTION OF TRIPOLI CHARTER AND ADMISSION OF SUDAN INTO CAR. CAR'S SYG, HOWEVER, TOLD EMBOFF DECEMBER 17 THAT RABTI IS PLAYING HIS OWN PRIVATE GAME AND TRIPOLI CHARTER REMAINS DEAD LETTER.

5. SOME MEMBERS OF LARGE CAR SECRETARIAT ARE REPORTEDLY WORRIED THAT THERE WILL BE HEAVY CUTS IN PERSONNEL, TO REFLECT MORIBUND STATE OF CONFEDERATION. IN EFFORT TO SHOW CAR IS AT LEAST DOING SOMETHING, SECRETARIAT RECENTLY ISSUED TO LOCAL PRESS LIST OF PROJECTS WHICH HAVE BEEN APPROVED BY PRESIDENTIAL COUNCIL. OF SIX PROJECTS LISTED, FIVE WERE REPORTED LAST FEBRUARY IN TRIPOLI 142. CAR SOURCE TELLS US THESE ENDEAVORS, WHICH INCLUDE BANK, LAND TRANSPORT COMPANY, AND AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION, WILL BE FUNDED EQUALLY BY THREE MEMBER STATES. WHERE NECESSARY, AS IN CASE OF BANK, LIBYA WILL LOAN OTHER TWO STATES THEIR SHARE OF CAPITAL. LIBYAN READINESS TO PROCEED WITH THESE PROJECTS MAY MEAN QADHAFI IS STILL INTERESTED IN USING CONFEDERAL MEANS TO FUNNEL MONEY INTO EGYPT IN RETURN FOR MOVE TOWARD UNITY. IF SO, GOE WILL BE PLEASED THAT QADHAFI STILL CARES.
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